NEWS FROM THE COOP

National Weather Service, 1329 Airport Rd., Jackson, KY 41339

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The Cooperative Observer Award Program

While the cooperative weather observers are volunteers, it is important to let them know how much the National Weather Service (NWS) appreciates the time they take out of their schedule each day to send in their reports. To that end, the NWS has an awards program to honor our observers. In this newsletter, I am going to discuss the different types of awards and list our previous recipients of the most prestigious awards.

Length of Service Awards (LOS): These awards are given to observers in two different categories: Individual or Institution. The first LOS is given after 10 years of service, and every 5 years thereafter up to the 40 year mark.

Dick Hagemeyer Award: This award was established in honor of Dick Hagemeyer, whose career spanned 51 years with NOAA. His last 20 years were served as Director of the NWS Pacific Region. Prior to this position, he served as a Substation Network Specialist/Cooperative Program Manager. This award is granted to an observer for 45 years of service.

Edward H. Stoll Award: This award was established in honor of Edward Stoll who served as a cooperative observer without interruption for 76 years. This award is granted to an observer for 50 years of service.

Benjamin Franklin Award: This award was established in honor of Benjamin Franklin who invented the lightning rod and was one of the first to describe the movement of large storm systems. As Postmaster General, he received weather reports from a network of observers along the coast. The reports are the first known record of hurricanes having been systematically tracked. This award is granted to an observer for 55 years of service.

Helmut E. Landsberg Award: This award was established in honor of Helmut E. Landsberg who was largely responsible for establishing the nationwide climatological network as we know it today. This award is granted to an observer for 60 years of service.

The Cooperative Observer Award Program (Continued)

General Albert J. Myer Award: This award was established in honor of General Albert J. Myer. General Myer was the observer at Eagle Pass, Texas and became the chief of the Signal Service. In 1870, by a joint resolution of congress and signed by President Ulysses S. Grant, General Myer was appointed to establish and direct the Division of Telegrams and Reports for the Benefit of Commerce. This division is now known as the National Weather Service. This award is granted to observers having completed 65 years of service.

Ruby Stufft Award: This award was established in honor of Ruby Stufft. In 1991, Mrs. Stufft of Elsmere, Nebraska became the first woman to achieve 70 years of cooperative service. This award is granted to observers having completed 70 years of observations.

Earl Stewart Award: This award was established in honor of Earl Stewart. Mr. Stewart completed 75 years of continuous observations at Cottage Grove, Oregon in 1992. Observers receive this award after 75 years of observations.

Richard G. Hendrickson Award: This award was established in honor of Richard Granger Hendrickson. Mr. Hendrickson completed 80 years of continuous observations at Bridgehampton, New York as of 2010. As of 2013, he continues his work as the primary observer at age 100. Observers receive this award after 80 years of observations.

Family Heritage Award: This award is granted to a family upon achieving 100 years of continuous cooperative observations. Additional recognition is presented every 25 years thereafter.

The two most prestigious awards given by the NWS to Cooperative Weather Observers are the John Campanius Holm Award and the Thomas Jefferson Award.

John Campanius Holm Award: This award was named in honor of John Campanius Holm, a Lutheran minister who was the first person known to have taken systematic weather observations in the American colonies (1644-1645). Each year, up to 25 cooperative observers are honored with this award for outstanding public service in the provision of daily observations in support of the climate and weather programs of the NWS.

Thomas Jefferson Award: This award was named in honor to Thomas Jefferson, our third President, who kept an almost unbroken series of weather records from 1776 to 1816. The Thomas Jefferson Award is the most prestigious award a cooperative observer can receive. Only 5 cooperative observers are honored each year with this award for outstanding and distinctive achievements. All candidates for the Jefferson Award are required to have been a recipient of the Holm Award 5 or more years before the year the nomination form is submitted for the Jefferson Award.

The Cooperative Observer Award Program (Continued)

The NWS Weather Forecast Office selects candidates for the John Campanius Holm Award and the Thomas Jefferson Award based on the following criteria:

1. The observer must have served at least 20 years as an observer to be eligible for the Holm Award and 25 years for the Jefferson Award.
2. The observer must have received a Holm Award at least 5 years earlier to be eligible for the Jefferson Award.
3. The observer consistently provides accurate and complete weather observations.
4. The observer has taken and reported observations under hazardous or extreme weather conditions over an extended period of time.
5. The observer has shown unusual effort to continuously provide observations despite illness, emergency absences, or equipment failures.
6. The observer takes consistent and/or unusual efforts to ensure early receipt of data at collection centers.
7. The observer independently prepares or publishes climatological data or summaries based on quality, consistency and length of time issued.
8. The observer shows consistent and/or unusual efforts to disseminate weather information and care of instruments.
9. The observer has been remarkably cooperative with NWS and other officials.
10. The observer demonstrates outstanding enthusiasm for imparting observational knowledge.
11. The observer is civic minded and a respected member of their community.

It is important to note that when the National Committee is making selections for both the Holm and Jefferson Awards, they take into consideration the completion of B91s. The B91s are checked to ensure that the forms are filled out completely, with zeros in all precipitation fields when no precipitation has fallen, and that they are legible and neat. That is why it is so important that whether you mail in a B91 each month or you enter your data into Wxcoder, that you make sure you fill in all the fields that pertain to your site. It could be a determining factor in whether or not you will receive the Holm or Jefferson Award.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

The Cooperative Observer Award Program (Continued)

The NWS office in Jackson Kentucky has had 2 cooperative observers awarded the Thomas Jefferson Award and 15 have received the John Campanius Holm Award. Below are lists of the recipients of these prestigious awards:

THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD RECIPIENTS

Recipient	Site Name	County	Year Awarded
Nettie Bowling	Big Creek	Clay	2000
Homer Nolan	Baxter	Harlan	1980

JOHN CAMPANIUS HOLM AWARD RECIPIENTS

Recipient	Site Name	County	Year Awarded
Robert Watts	Skyline	Letcher	2012
Doris Lowe	Baxter	Harlan	2009
Dewey Conn	Martin	Floyd	2008
Charles Tucker	Buckhorn/Booneville	Owsley	2008
Eula Skidmore	Slade	Powell	2007
J.D. Rogers	Monticello	Wayne	2005
Robert L. "Bud" Cox	Mt. Vernon	Rockcastle	2004
Roy Abbott	Somerset	Pulaski	2000
Rudy Young	Stearns	McCreary	2000
Michael Brotzge	Skyline	Letcher	1999
Harold Pelfrey	Quicksand	Breathitt	1996
Nettie W. Bowling	Big Creek	Clay	1995
Lorene Lewis	Pine Mountain	Harlan	1994
William H. Fischer	Flemingsburg	Fleming	1974
Homer Nolan	Baxter	Harlan	1973

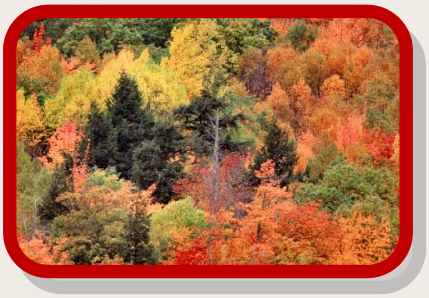
If you haven't received a Length of Service Award for the 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, or 40 year mark and you are due one, please contact either David Stamper or Tabitha Brewer at (606) 666-2560 or send us an email at **david.stamper@noaa.gov** or **tabitha.brewer@noaa.gov**.

Visit us on the web at: www.weather.gov/jacksonky

Not so Commonly Known Weather Terms

These weather terms are sometimes used in forecasts and on the Weather Radio, but some people do not know what they mean. Here are a few of those terms:

1. **Apparent Temperature** — A measure of human discomfort due to combined heat and humidity. It measures the increased physiological heat stress and discomfort associated with higher than comfortable humidities.
2. **Degree Days** — Gauges the amount of heating or cooling needed for a building using 65°F as a baseline. To compute Heating Degree Days/Cooling Degree Days, take the average temperature for a day and subtract 65°F from it. If the difference is a positive number, then it is the amount of Cooling Degree Days for that day. If the difference is a negative number, then it is the amount of Heating Degree Days for that day. This computation is widely used by electric companies.
3. **Derecho** — Widespread, long-lived windstorms associated with a band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms. A derecho can produce destruction similar to a tornado, but the damage patter associated with a derecho occurs along relatively straight lines.
4. **Dew Point** — A measure of atmospheric moisture. It is the temperature to which air must be cooled at constant pressure and moisture content in order for saturation to occur. The higher the dew point, the greater amount of water vapor in the air mass.
5. **Down Burst** — An example of straight line winds. It is a small area of rapidly descending rain cooled air beneath a thunderstorm. Winds produced from a downburst often travel in one direction.
6. **Shear** — Variation in wind speed and/or direction over a short distance. The word "shear" normally
refers to vertical wind shear.
7. **Straight Line Winds** — Generally any wind not associated with rotation. These winds are often responsible for most of the wind damage associated with thunderstorms. Straight line winds are often confused with tornadoes because of similar damage and wind speeds. However, the strong, gusty winds associated with straight line winds are unlike the rotating winds of tornadoes. If you were to survey the damage from straight line winds, you would see debris, such as uprooted trees, laid out in nearly parallel rows or in a divergent pattern.



Getting to Know Us
In Profile this Issue: Peter Geogerian,

Pete Geogerian's weather interest, like many weather enthusiasts, began as a child. He grew up in southern New England, where a variety of dynamic weather occurs, including high impact snow storms, tropical systems, as well as severe weather. One of the more rare events that Pete remembers growing up was when a microburst struck his neighborhood. Large 100 plus year old trees were uprooted, causing significant roof damage to some homes.

Pete began his career in weather working at an airport in Fort Wayne, Indiana as a weather observer in the late 90s. The main duty of this position was to provide supplementary weather observations at the airport, including snowfall measurements, sky cover, visibility, thunderstorm location and movement, as well as lightning frequency. Most of the employees at this Fort Wayne site had weather backgrounds either from the National Weather Service, the military, or both.

Pete's National Weather Service (NWS) career began in late 2001, hiring on as an intern at the NWS office in Jackson, KY. Since that time, he has been promoted to forecaster, and has held that position to date. In the last 6 years, Pete has been the Hydrology Focal Point for the office, which includes working with local officials to ensure the best service possible is provided, and ensuring operational Staff members have the training and tools available to get the job done.

Pete feels very blessed to be able to work in a field he genuinely loves. As a NWS employee, it has been his privilege to work and communicate with fellow NWS peers, Cooperative Observers, Emergency Management, local law enforcement, fire and rescue squads, as well as the general public.

Pete currently resides in Powell County with his wonderful wife and 2 precious children. His hobby is old cars, and he looks forward to canoeing down the Red River with his family in the future.

Resetting the Time on the Nimbus Temperature Display

Autumn has arrived once again, and along with the season, comes the time change. Daylight Savings Time ends on the first Sunday in November, which will occur on November 3rd this year. This being the case, those of you whom have a Nimbus MAX/MIN Temperature display will need to move your time back an hour on Sunday, November 3rd, after you have taken your daily observation. The procedure for resetting the time on the Nimbus is as follows:

1. Hold down the **Max/Min Recall** button for about 2 seconds, simultaneously flipping the **memory toggle switch** to the **On** position at the same time.
2. The screen will momentarily be blank, but will then display E3E.3, signaling successful entering of the "Time Mode". When this occurs, release the Max/Min Recall button.

Resetting the Time on the Nimbus Temperature Display

and the current time (as known by the instrument) will be displayed.

3. Setting the clock involves pushing various buttons switches. The buttons change the unit's time in the following increments:

   A. **Max/Min Recall** — Increases the hour in increments of one.

   B. **Max/Min Clear** — Increases the minutes in increments of ten.

   C. **Memory Read** — Increases the minutes in increments of one.

The time of your observation should be 00:00 (indicating midnight). If you take your observation at 7 am, then your box, at 7 am, should display 00:00. If you take your observation at 8 am, then your box, at 8 am, should display 00:00 as the time. Basically, on the 3rd of November, at your observation time, the clock on the Nimbus will read 01:00 due to the time change. You will want to push the **Max/Min Recall** button 23 times, or until 00:00 is displayed to reset your time.

4. Once the time has been reset, flip the **Memory switch** back to the ***Off*** position and the new time takes effect.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeff Carico or Tabitha Brewer and one of us will gladly walk you through the process.

Snow Measurement Refresher

The winter season will soon be upon us and we thought it might be helpful to refresh everyone on taking and reporting snow measurements.

Keep in mind, first and foremost, that when the temperature starts to drop below freezing, remove the plastic funnel and inner tube from the rain gage to keep the plastic equipment from cracking when water freezes in the funnel and tube. If you forget, and the funnel or tube cracks or breaks, give us a call and we will send you a replacement.

If you do not have a snow measuring stick or snowboard, let us know and we will get those out to you.

The snowboard should be located near your rain gage, in an open location that is not prone to drifting and away from trees, obstructions, and buildings.

You will need to record 3 values when frozen/freezing precipitation (such as snow, sleet aka ice pellets, freezing rain, or freezing drizzle) occurs: Snowfall, Snow Depth, and Precipitation.

When measuring snowfall, measure and record the amount of snow and sleet found on the snowboard at your observation time to the nearest tenth of an inch. Make sure to wipe the snowboard clean after the measurement is taken to reset for the next 24 hour period.

If snowfall amounts are too small to measure, such as flurries or snow which melted as it hit the ground, enter "T" for a Trace.

Snow Measurement Refresher

When measuring snow depth, determine the total depth of snow, sleet, and ice on the ground at your observation time using the snow measuring stick. Take 4 to 6 snow depth readings on your property in order to get an average value. Do not take snow depth measurements in areas impacted by blown, plowed, or shoveled snow, or in snow drifts. Record the average snow depth to the nearest inch (i.e. 0.4" is reported as a "T" for Trace, but 0.5" is rounded up to 1 inch. Do not record zero for snow depth if snow is on the ground, enter a "T" for Trace if it is so light that a measurement could not be made.

If frozen precipitation is likely to occur, remove the funnel and inner tube from the overflow container. The water equivalent of frozen precipitation that has fallen into the gage can be determined by the following steps:

A. Bring the overflow container that contains the frozen precipitation into a warm building.

B. Wait until the frozen precipitation melts. Once it becomes liquified;

C. Pour the melted precipitation into the measuring tube.

D. Measure this as you would measure rain. Melting the frozen precipitation can be accelerated by carefully measuring an amount of warm water in the measuring tube, then pouring this into the overflow container with the frozen precipitation.

Once everything is liquefied, you then measure the total amount of liquid, subtracting the amount of water you added to the mixture. This liquid measurement would be recorded in the precipitation column on the B91.

Reminders

1. If you are planning to be out of town, and know you are going to be unable to take your observation, please try to have someone else take and report the observation for you.
2. Please have your observation called in or entered into Wxcoder no later than 9:15 am. There are several products generated that use your data.
3. Please remember to fill in the precipitation, snowfall and snow depth columns each day. If no precipitation has occurred, then enter zeros in all three columns. Having all the blocks completely filled in is especially important when being considered for a Holm or Jefferson Award.
4. If you enter your data into Wxcoder, and have missed taking your precipitation total for a day or longer, when entering the observation, be sure to use the pull down menu to denote the number of days this total represents.
5. You no longer need to send in a copy of the B91s. You can keep them for your records. However, you will need to be diligent about either calling in each day or entering your data into Wxcoder on a daily basis since we will not have the B91s to backfill missed days.